

# City prefers any new garbage plant to be energy generator

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**Plasco Facility on Trim Road in Ottawa On, Wednesday Aug 28, 2012. Tony Caldwell/Ottawa Sun/QMI Agency**

The city prefers any new garbage processing plant be able to turn trash into treasure.

**SUN+** Not only should a facility get rid of curbside trash, it should also pump out energy, according to the city's request for information on technologies in the marketplace.

That's what Plasco Energy Group's technology does -- superheat garbage to produce a gas that powers electricity generators, while repurposing the leftover "slag" for the construction industry. The method is called plasmagasification.

But Plasco is on the ropes because it has missed another deadline to come up with the money required to build a commercial plant in Ottawa. The company's exclusivity deal with City Hall is in jeopardy.

So, the city wants to hear from companies that can process annually 109,500 tonnes of garbage unfit for the blue box, black box and green bin.

When staff sort through the responses, they'll bring a report to council in February and politicians will decide if there should be a contract competition.

Unlike when Plasco and the city partnered in 2005, there are several waste-to-energy options that could be available to the city. Council could see several pitches to process municipal solid waste, including from others that provide plasma gasification plants.

Garbage incineration could be on the table and the technology is gaining steam in another part of Ontario. A new electricity-generating garbage incinerator will serve Durham and York regions.

However, the thought of burning garbage didn't sit well with some councillors who openly worried about such a facility in Ottawa during an environment committee meeting in August 2013. On the other hand, Coun. Allan Hubley has been pushing the city to examine incineration as a disposal option if the deal with Plasco falls through.

Montreal company Enerkem is often cited with Plasco as Canadian companies making breakthroughs in waste-to-energy technology. An Enerkem commercial plant in Edmonton will convert municipal waste into methanol and ethanol.


There are other companies offering unique ways to process municipal waste.

With so much money up for grabs, it would be no surprise if several other international companies pushing cutting-edge technology line up at City Hall's door.


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